

XXXIV.—*Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club.*

Nos. XLIII.—XLV.

No. XLIII. (March 31st, 1897.)

THE forty-second Meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 17th of March, 1897.

Chairman : P. L. SCLATER, F.R.S.

Members present :—E. BIDWELL, F. C. CRAWFORD, P. CROWLEY, W. E. DE WINTON, A. H. EVANS, JOHN GERARD, W. R. OGILVIE GRANT, J. G. MILLAIS, P. W. MUNN, E. NEALE, R. NESHAM, HEATLEY NOBLE, C. E. PEARSON, H. J. PEARSON, H. L. POPHAM, H. SAUNDERS (*Treasurer*), R. BOWDLER SHARPE (*Editor*), W. B. TEGETMEIER, N. F. TICEHURST, A. B. R. TREVOR-BATTYE, H. M. WALLIS, WATKIN WATKINS.

Visitors : C. E. FAGAN, E. F. FENWICK, H. WARRAND, RONALD WEBBER, JOHN WHITEHEAD.

The Treasurer informed the meeting of the death of an esteemed member of the Club, Mr. William Graham. It was unanimously voted that a letter of condolence should be sent to Mr. Graham's family.

MR. H. L. POPHAM exhibited some interesting birds and eggs from the Yenesci River, including eggs of *Bernicla ruficollis*, *Limosa lapponica*, *Phalaropus fulicarius*, *Emberiza pusilla*, *Turdus fuscatus*, *Geocichla sibirica* (probably), and *Stercorarius pomatorhinus*, the eggs of the last-named bird being almost the first authentic ones ever shown. Mr. Popham also showed the eggs of the Wood-Sandpiper laid in an old Fieldfare's nest, with a specimen of the bird shot therefrom.

MR. J. G. MILLAIS exhibited a male *Phasianus colchicus* assuming female plumage, an extremely rare occurrence. He also showed a Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*) and some Common Redstarts (*Ruticilla phoenicurus*) in which the same phenomenon was apparent.

Mr. JOHN WHITEHEAD, who was warmly welcomed by the Members on his return from his successful expedition to the Philippines, gave an account of his travels in Luzon.

Mr. WHITEHEAD also described a new Fruit-Pigeon from the highlands of Negros, as follows :—

PTILOCOLPA NIGRORUM, n. sp.

Similis *P. griseipectori* (Bp.), sed plagâ præpectoralis nigrâ, nec cinereâ, faciliè distinguenda. Long. tot. 13·0 poll., alæ 8·3, caudæ 4·8, tarsi 0·85.

Hab. Negros, Philippine Archipelago.

The adult female was shown to be similar to the female of *P. griseipectus*. The soft parts were as follows :—“Base of bill coral-pink, tipped with dull white; iris pale straw-yellow; feet coral-pink.”

Mr. HUGH WARRAND exhibited a specimen of *Perdix montana*, shot by Mr. Peacock Edwardes in Nairnshire.

Mr. OGILVIE GRANT exhibited a female of the Luzon Hemipodè (*Turnix whiteheadi*).

Mr. SCLATER explained two new technical terms, “Topomorph” and “Lipomorph,” which he had recently used in his papers on geographical distribution. He proposed to denominate natural groups that were restricted to limited districts—and therefore characteristic of them by their presence—as “Topomorphs,” and those natural groups that on the contrary characterized districts by their absence as “Lipomorphs.” Thus, in the class of Birds, *Struthio* and *Indicator* were topomorphs of the Ethiopian Region, and *Rhea* of the Neotropical Region. In the Australian Region the family of Woodpeckers (*Picidae*) was a lipomorph, and *Memura* was a topomorph, &c.

Mr. SCLATER called attention to the issue of the first part of the division Aves (edited by Dr. Reichenow) of ‘Das Tierreich.’ It contained the *Podargidæ*, *Caprimulgidæ*, and *Macropterygidæ*, an excellent synopsis of which three

families, together with an index, had been compressed by Mr. Hartert, the author of this section, into ninety-eight pages. Mr. Sclater lamented the use of the German language in this great undertaking, as it would render the book almost useless to many ornithologists in England and the United States. It would, in his opinion, have been much better to have employed Latin—the universal language of science, known to every properly educated person in the world—in a work of this cosmopolitan character.

No. XLIV. (April 30th, 1897.)

THE forty-third Meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 21st of April, 1897.

Chairman: P. L. SCLATER, F.R.S.

Members present:—PHILIP CROWLEY, W. E. DE WINTON, W. R. OGILVIE GRANT, ERNST HARTERT, SIR HERBERT MAXWELL, Bart., M.P., DR. ST. GEORGE MIVART, F.R.S., H. J. PEARSON, FRANK PENROSE, HOWARD SAUNDERS (*Treasurer*), R. BOWDLER SHARPE (*Editor*), W. B. TEGETMEIER, W. F. URWICK, JOHN YOUNG.

Visitors: Admiral the Rt. Hon. Sir JOHN DALRYMPLE HAY, Bart., K.C.B., DR. CUTHBERT CHRISTY, F. E. MUGFORD.

Mr. OSBERT SALVIN, F.R.S., who had recently examined the collection of Tufted Owlets in the British Museum, communicated the following descriptions of species believed by him to be undescribed:—

—SCOPS INGENS, n. sp.

Similis *S. brasiliano*, et eodem modo coloratus, sed ubique saturatior et valdè major. Long. tot. 10·5 poll., alæ 8·2.

Hab. Ecuador.

—SCOPS SANCTÆ-CATARINÆ, n. sp.

Similis *S. guatemalæ*, gastræo absque colore flavo insignis, pectoris colore clarè definito, sed ab hac specie et a

S. brasiliense plumis auricularibus longis, harum pogoniis internis pallidis faciliè distinguendus. Long. tot. 10·5 poll., alæ 7·8.

Hab. Southern Brazil.

+ *SCOPS RORAIMÆ*, n. sp.

S. similis S. guatemalæ, sed minor, et ab hac specie et a *S. brasiliense* maculis quadratis albis primariorum distinguendus. Long. tot. 8·0 poll., alæ 5·9.

Hab. Roraima, British Guiana.

MR. SALVIN also proposed to describe a new species of *Selasphorus* from Costa Rica as

+ *SELASPHORUS UNDERWOODI*, n. sp.

S. ardenti similis, rectricibus mediis ferè ad apicem utrinque rufo marginatis, arcâ medianâ angustiore purpureo-nigricante et ad apicem viridi leviter lavatâ; rostro multo brevior. Long. tota circa 2·9 poll., alæ 1·45, caudæ 1·05, rostri a rictu 0·55.

Hab. Irazu, Costa Rica (*C. F. Underwood*).

Obs. Mr. Underwood has sent us a single male specimen of this *Selasphorus*, which he shot on the Volcano of Irazu on the 20th Nov., 1896. At first I thought it a fully adult specimen of *Selasphorus ardens*, but its short bill (0·55 instead of 0·65) and slightly differently coloured tail have convinced me that it is a local form of that bird which may well be separated. The colouring of the throat is slightly tarnished, that of the type of *S. ardens* being very bright, some of the feathers not being fully grown; they are, however, rather longer in the present bird, due, no doubt, to their being fully grown. The types of *S. ardens*, which, I believe, are still the only examples known, came from Castillo, in the State of Panama.

On behalf of Mr. G. H. CATON HAIGH, Mr. SAUNDERS exhibited a specimen of the Water-Pipit (*Anthus spipoletta*), shot near the mouth, and on the Carnarvonshire side, of the Glaslyn, North Wales, on the 5th of this month by Mr. Haigh. This was its first recorded occurrence for the west side of Great Britain. Mr. Saunders called attention to the fact

that there was white at the tips of the *second* pair of tail-feathers (as well as on the first pair) at all ages in the Water-Pipit, but never so in *Anthus obscurus*, nor in the Scandinavian *A. rupestris*.

MR. PHILIP CROWLEY exhibited an interesting albino specimen of a Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) which had been shot at Merstham, near Reigate, on the 28th of February last.

MR. ERNST HARTERT exhibited an example of a new species of Humming-Bird, which he described as follows:—

—PHAËTHORNIS STUARTI, n. sp.

Top of the head brown, with more or less of a metallic green gloss. Hind-neck, interscapulium, back, and upper wing-coverts metallic green. Rump and upper tail-coverts rusty cinnamon. Rectrices dark purplish brown, with dark bronzy-green bases and white tips, the central pair about 10 millimetres longer than the next, and nearly all bronzy green with white tips. Wings deep purplish brown. Chin and upper throat buffy white or whitish buff. Rest of under surface tawny ochraceous, the under tail-coverts lighter, almost white. Breast with a bunch of broad and elongated feathers of a bronzy-brown colour, with paler edges and a sub-terminal darker line. Auriculars black. A whitish-buff superciliary line, beginning above the eye, but not before. Maxilla and tip of mandible black; mandible, except the tip, yellowish flesh-colour (in skin). Total length about 95 mm.; wing 41-42; tail—central rectrices 38-39, next pair 9-10 mm. shorter, lateral pair only about 15-17; bill 22-23.

Mr. Hartert made the following remarks:—

“This new species belongs to the section of the genus *Phaëthornis* which most authors separate as *Pygmornis*. In the *Pygmornis* section it must be grouped with the species which have a dark pectoral zone (Section *b* in the ‘Key’ of *Pygmornis*, Salvin, Cat. B. xvi. p. 280). From the three forms in that section described in the ‘Catalogue of Birds’ it differs principally in having broad *white* tips to the rectrices, and in its *large size*. The tail beneath is darker

and more blackish, the under tail-coverts light, the chin and upper throat whitish. It differs from *P. riojæ*, Berlepsch, principally in having no black on the chin at all.

"Several examples of this new species were collected at Salinas, on the Beni River in Eastern Bolivia, by Mr. Arthur Maxwell Stuart, in whose honour it was named. The same gentleman found *Phaethornis pygmæus nigricinctus* (Lawr.) in the hills of San Augustin, in Eastern Bolivia, at about 3500 feet elevation."

Mr. ERNST HARTERT exhibited some of the new species of birds which were in the collection recently sent by Mr. Alfred Everett from Flores, viz.: *Pachycephala nudigula*, Hartert, a species remarkable for a large bare red spot on the throat; *Pnoepyga everetti*, Rothschild, which further extended the distribution of that genus; *Zosterops crassirostris* and *Z. superciliaris*, Hartert, two fine and very distinct forms of the large genus *Zosterops*; *Micræca oscillans*, Hartert, a new Flycatcher of, at present, somewhat doubtful affinities; *Brachypteryx floris*, *Orthonocichla everetti*, and *Cryptolopha montis floris*, subsp. nov., very closely allied to *C. montis*.

The Hon. WALTER ROTHSCHILD sent for exhibition a specimen of *Æstrelata hæsitata* (Kuhl), a male, killed at Verona Beach, on Oneida Lake, N.Y., on August 28th, 1893, by the Rev. G. A. Biederman, of Utica, N.Y., who had presented it to Mr. Alex. H. Moore, by whom it had been mounted.

Mr. ROTHSCHILD also sent a skin of *Paradisea intermedia*, De Vis. This form was intermediate between *Paradisea augustæ-victoriæ*, Cab., which it resembled on the upper surface, and *P. raggiana*, Sel., to which it was similar below. Specimens of the two latter species were shown for comparison.

Mr. ROTHSCHILD further sent for exhibition skins of *Ruticilla erythrogastra*, Güld., from the Caucasus, and *R. grandis*, Gould, from Central Asia; species which had generally

(for example, by Dresser, Jerdon, Seebohm, and Oates) been confounded, but which proved to be distinct. Further notes on these species would be found in the forthcoming number of 'Novitates Zoologicae.'

Dr. BOWDLER SHARPE exhibited a skeleton of *Paramythia montium*, which had been forwarded to the British Museum by Mr. De Vis, of the Brisbane Museum. Sir Wm. Macgregor had procured two specimens of this species on Mount Scratchley, where it was not uncommon, and had sent them to Mr. De Vis in spirits.

Paramythia montium was described by Mr. De Vis in 1892, and was referred to the *Sturnidae*, but the characters of the genus appeared to be so aberrant that in a notice of the genus published by Dr. Selater in the 'Ibis' for 1893 (p. 243) the latter gentleman proposed that a separate family, *Paramythiidae*, should be established for it, "coming nearest to the *Ampelidae* and to some of the *Dicæidae*." About the same time, and quite independently, Dr. Sharpe (Zool. Rec. xxix. Aves, p. 50) had also relegated *Paramythia* to a distinct family near the *Eulabetidae*.

The wings were not perfect in the specimen examined by Dr. Selater, who came to the conclusion that there were only nine primary-quills; but that this was a mistake has already been shown by Mr. Hartert (Nov. Zool. iii. p. 13), and in the wing now exhibited by Dr. Sharpe it was clearly perceptible that the first primary was present, though very minute, and attended by a smaller covert. Thus *Paramythia* was evidently a ten-primaried bird and had a Starling-like wing. An examination of the base of the skull showed that in the form of this portion of the cranium the palate was Starling-like and had a spinous process on the exterior edge of the palatines: indeed, the skull of *Paramythia* was extremely like that of *Calornis*.

Thus, although the genus *Paramythia* appeared to be an aberrant kind of Starling, with long slender legs and an unbroken lamina on the front aspect of the tarsus, yet the structure of the skull and the number of primaries seemed

to refer *Paramythia* to the neighbourhood of *Calornis*, which, however, had very big feet and a scutellated tarsus. In appearance there was much which made *Paramythia* resemble a Cuckoo-Shrike, and one genus of *Campophagide*, viz. *Campochera*, suggested a sort of relationship, as it had also the sheath of the tarsus entire; but, on the other hand, there were no spiny shafts to the feathers of the rump in *Paramythia*, so that the latter could never be called a Campophagine bird. The skull, too, of *Graucalus* was somewhat of a Laniine type, with the spinous process of the hinder part of the palatine bones developed on the inner posterior angle, though this process appeared to be very broad and blunt in *Graucalus*.

Dr. SHARPE exhibited a specimen of Chernel's Wood-Lark (*Lullula cherneli*), which had been sent to him for examination by Mr. Georg von Almásy, who had written a paper on the form called *Alauda arborea cherneli* by Pražák, in 'Aquila' (vol. iii. p. 209). The characters of this supposed race of *Lullula arborea* were the paler coloration of the upper parts, with less admixture of rufous, the white eyebrow, chin, breast, and abdomen, the whiter edgings to the primaries, upper wing-coverts, bastard-wing, and the whiter spots on the tail-feathers. The bill was also said to be longer.

Specimens agreeing with the Hungarian example of *L. cherneli* sent by Mr. von Almásy were in the British Museum from the following localities:—Gozna, Taurus, Jan. 1 (*C. G. Danford*); Anascha, Taurus, March 18, April 7 (*C. G. D.*); Alamut, Anatolia, Feb. (*C. G. D.*); Seville, Spain, Feb. 20 (*H. Saunders*); Gibraltar, April 21 (*L. H. Irby*); Tangiers, June (*S. G. Reid*).

Dr. Sharpe drew attention to the fact that these pale-coloured specimens had nearly all been shot in spring and summer, when the plumage is rather bleached and worn, and that the colour of the specimens killed in other parts of Europe in autumn and winter was certainly darker, but that it was impossible to distinguish a male killed in July in Southern Norway from the series of *L. cherneli*. Dr. Sharpe was

driven to the conclusion that *L. cherneli* had been founded on specimens in bleached plumage from somewhat arid localities, and he believed that winter-killed individuals in freshly moulted plumage would resemble the ordinary *L. arborea*, while breeding specimens of the latter certainly were not to be distinguished from *L. cherneli*.

Dr. SHARPE exhibited some Weaver-Birds from British Central Africa, sent by Mr. F. J. Jackson from Mau. The female had been described as *Heterhyphantes stephanophorus* in 1891 by Dr. Sharpe, and now Mr. Jackson forwarded the male, which had a rufous head, and was apparently identical with *Symplectes croconotus* of Sjöstedt, from the Cameroons. Of the difference of the sexes in this Weaver-Bird Mr. Jackson said "there is not the slightest question," and he had sent two pairs procured at different places. The presence of a West-African form like *S. croconotus* was less astonishing than appeared at first sight, as Mr. Jackson's collection also contained a specimen of the West-African *Lanicterus quiscalinus*.

Mr. JOHN WHITEHEAD sent a description of a new Flycatcher from the island of Negros, Philippines:—

MUSCICAPULA NIGRORUM, n. sp.

♂ *adult*. Most nearly allied to *M. luzoniensis*, Grant. The general colour of the upper parts less grey, but dark slaty blue as in *M. hyperythra*. The chin is pure white, the rest of the underparts richer orange-buff; belly white.

♀ *adult*. General colour of the upper parts dull slate-grey, and not greyish olive-brown as in the female of *M. luzoniensis*; lores and feathers round the eye whiter; breast and underparts as in the male of *M. luzoniensis*.

Hab. Canloan Volcano, 6000 ft., Central Negros, Philippines.

Mr. TEGETMEIER exhibited a very large egg of a Goose with another perfect egg inside it.

No. XLV. (May 29th, 1897.)

THE forty-fourth meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 19th of May, 1897.

Chairman: P. L. SCLATER, F.R.S.

Vice-Chairman: P. CROWLEY.

Members present:—E. BIDWELL, W. E. DE WINTON, DR. F. DREWITT, E. HARTERT, G. E. LODGE, SIR HERBERT MAXWELL, BART., M.P., R. NESHAM, E. W. OATES, F. PENROSE, E. LORT PHILLIPS, R. BOWDLER SHARPE (*Editor*), E. CAVENDISH TAYLOR, W. B. TEGETMEIER, N. F. TICEHURST, H. M. UPCHER, H. M. WALLIS, W. WATKINS, L. P. WILLIAMS, C. A. WRIGHT.

Visitors: F. CURTIS, E. A. FITCH, A. J. FITCH, DONALDSON GUNN, ARTHUR HOLLAND, F. C. SELOUS, H. E. S. UPCHER.

DR. F. PENROSE alluded to the loss which the Club had recently sustained by the death of its Member, C. BYGRAVE WHARTON.

THE Hon. WALTER ROTHSCHILD sent some skins of the common Yellow-plumed Bird of Paradise (*Paradisea minor*, Shaw), of which he recognized three sub-species. The typical form inhabited Dutch New Guinea, and he possessed a good series from Arfak, Etna Bay, and Kapaur. It was a small bird, with the wing about 177-189 mm., the tail 130-136, the ornamental plumes from 400 to 460 mm.

The second form, from Jobi Island in Geelvink Bay, differed in its larger size and longer and fuller side-plumes; the wing measured 196-200 mm., the tail 145-150, the ornamental plumes 530-610 mm. in length. Mr. Rothschild proposed to call this form *P. minor jobiensis*, subsp. nov., and of this form he had five skins, collected by Dr. Guillemard and others.

The third was the bird from German New Guinea. It was of the size of the typical form, from which it differed in being darker vinous-brown on the breast, while the chest-feathers were more crisp and produced a slight shield-like appearance,

The yellow bar on the wing was also less distinct in this form. This was the *P. finschi* of A. B. Meyer, although the characters given by him for its distinction were apparently not the most striking. Mr. Rothschild had a number of specimens of it collected by the late Mr. Kubary and Captains Webster and Cotton.

MR. ERNST HARTERT exhibited the second known specimen of a rare Humming-Bird (*Iolæma luminosa*, Elliot), the type of which, hitherto unique, was in the British Museum.

MR. E. HARTERT also exhibited a remarkable variety of the Waxwing (*Ampelis garrulus*) from Lapland, with the wax-like tips to the secondaries yellow instead of red.

MR. E. LORT PHILLIPS exhibited some specimens of birds collected by him during his recent trip to the Goolis Mountains in Somaliland. Among the interesting species obtained by him were the following:—*Hyphantornis spekii*, *Irania gutturalis*, *Ruticilla semirufa*, *Monticola rufocinerea*, *Zosterops habessinica*, *Anthus sordidus*, *Mirafra gilletti*, *Sylvia blanfordi*, *S. nana*, *Burnesia somalica*, *Lophoceros mediana*, and *Pternistes infuscatus*.

He described the following species as new to science:—

CALENDULA FREMANTLII, n. sp.

C. rostro crasso insignis: rufescens, notæi plumis latè nigricanti-brunneo striatis: pileo vix cristato: regione paroticiâ rufescente, maculâ magnâ albâ notatâ: lineâ nigrâ per oculos ductâ: gutture et colli lateribus albis, striâ malari nigrâ distinctâ: subtùs pallidè isabellina, pectore et hypochondriis rufescentibus, vix brunneo vel rufo striatis: maculâ nigrâ distinctâ ad latera præpectoris positâ. Long. tot. 5·7 poll., culm. 0·7, alæ 3·6, caudæ 1·75, tarsi 0·7.

RHYNCHOSTRUTHUS LOUISÆ, n. sp.

Similis *R. socotrano*, sed minor, rostro debiliore et genis cinerascens nec albis distinguendus. Long. tot. 5·0 poll., culm. 0·5, alæ 3·05, caudæ 1·6, tarsi 0·65.

TRICHOLEMMA BLANDI, n. sp.

T. simile T. stigmatothoraci, sed maculâ rubrâ pectorali nullâ, pileo et gutturi plumis distinctè albido terminatis

facile distinguendum. Long. tot. 4.6 poll., culm. 0.6, alæ 2.5, caudæ 1.3, tarsi 0.8.

Dr. BOWDLER SHARPE described a new species of Francolin from the Wagga Mountains in Somaliland, obtained by Mr. Lort Phillips at a height of 9000 feet:—

FRANCOLINUS LORTI, n. sp.

F. similis F. gutturali et *F. uluensi*, plagâ albâ ad latera colli nigro punctatâ: maculis præpectoralibus saturatè castaneis, rachidibus angustè nigris: hypochondriis saturatè castaneo notatis. Long. tot. 12.5 poll., alæ 6.6.

Dr. SHARPE described two species of Owls as follows:—

SYRNIUM NIGRICANTIUS, n. sp.

S. simile S. woodfordi, sed suprâ nigricanti-brunneum, vix albo stellatum: superciliis et facie laterali purè niveis: præpectore nigricanti-brunneo, vix albo aut fulvo fasciato. Long. tot. 13.5 poll., alæ 9.8.

Hab. Mpapwa, E. Africa. Typus in Mus. Brit.

NINOX EVERETTI, n. sp.

Similis N. reyi, sed maculis pallidis primariorum paucis fulvescentibus, minimè albo quadratim notatis, et abdomine, hypochondriis et tibiis ochrascenti-fulvis, nec albis brunneo maculatis, distinguenda. Long. tot. 9.5 poll., alæ 7.7.

Hab. Siassi Island, Sulu Archipelago (*A. H. Everett*).

Dr. BOWDLER SHARPE exhibited the skin of an apparently new species of *Dicæum* from Mount Masarang in Northern Celebes, collected by Mr. Charles Hose. It was an intermediate form between *D. nigrimentum*, Salvad., and *D. pryeri*, Sharpe. The name proposed was

DICÆUM HOSII, n. sp.

D. similis D. nigrimento, sed gulâ superiore totâ nigrâ distinguendum. Long. tot. 3.2 poll., alæ 1.8.

Dr. SHARPE also exhibited some specimens of birds recently sent by Mr. F. J. Jackson from Uganda, amongst them being several typical West-African forms. The West-

African element in the regions of the Upper Nile district had already been demonstrated by Dr. Sharpe in his account of Bohndorff's collections in the Niam-niam country (Journ. Linn. Soc. xvii. pp. 419-441), and by Dr. Reichenow in his treatise on the birds collected by Dr. Stuhlmann and Emiu Pasha on the Victoria Nyanza (J. f. O. 1892, pp. 1-60). Mr. Jackson had, however, been able to add several West-African species to the Avifauna of Uganda, among them being the following:—*Campophaga phanicea* (N'tebi), *Bias musicus* (N'tebi), *Nicator chloris* (Busoga, N'tebi), *Malimbus rubricollis* (N'tebi), *Melocichla mentalis* (N'tebi), *Burnesia leucopogon*, &c.

The following species were described by Dr. SHARPE as new:—

DRYODROMAS RUFIDORSALIS, n. sp.

D. similis D. smithii, sed pileo et notæ toto rufescente, illo saturatiore distinguenda. Long. tot. 5·3 poll., alæ 2·0.

Hab. River Tsavo, Sept. 20, 1894 (*F. J. Jackson*).

LAMPROTORNIS BREVICAUDUS, n. sp.

L. similis L. porphyroptero, sed valdè minor et caudâ conspicuè brevior distinguenda. Long. tot. 11·5 poll., alæ 5·8.

Hab. Elgeyu (*F. J. Jackson*).

The differences in the length of the tail between the Abyssinian birds and those from British Central Africa were so well marked that they seemed to constitute two distinct forms. The tail of *L. porphyropterus* measured 7·7-7·8 inches, but that of *L. brevicaudus* only reached 5·05-5·9 inches. (*Cf.* Sharpe, *Ibis*, 1891, p. 240.)

Mr. JOHN WHITEHEAD sent for exhibition a series of specimens of the genus *Dendrophila* from the Philippine Islands, and pointed out the following interesting facts:—

The Philippine species of *Dendrophila* could be divided into two sections, viz. those with a white loreal spot and a greenish bill, and those with black lores and a red bill. To the last

section belonged the birds from Palawan and Balabac, called *D. frontalis* by Sharpe. *D. corallipes* from Borneo, with its red bill and red legs, was quite distinct.

All the Philippine birds had a white loreal spot, greenish bill, and dark greenish-brown legs. Two species had been described, *D. aenochlamys*, Sharpe, and *D. mesoleuca*, Ogilvie Grant. The former had been described from a Guimaras specimen of Prof. Steere's. Mr. Whitehead showed that the same form was found in Cebu, Negros, and Panay, but that in Samar, Leyte, and Basilan a very much darker form occurred, which was worthy of separation on account of the suffusion of dark lilac over the whole of the under surface of the body. He proposed to call the Samar form

DENDROPHILA LILACEA, n. sp.

D. similis D. aenochlamydi, sed gastræo toto vividè lilascenti-vinaceo, nec lilascenti-brunneo, distinguenda.

Mr. Whitehead also showed that *D. mesoleuca* from the highlands of Luzon looked, at first sight, distinct enough; but on comparing a series from different elevations, it was clear that the bird from the coast-region and the lower elevations of the mountains showed very little difference from *D. aenochlamys*, but that, as higher elevations were reached, there appeared more and more white on the back, and more white on the breast, until typical *D. mesoleuca* was reached.

Messrs. C. B. RICKETT and J. DE LA TOUCHE sent for exhibition examples of the following apparently new species of birds from China:—

BRACHYPTERYX SINENSIS, Rickett, n. sp.

♂ similis *B. crurali* ♂, sed ubique pallidior: subtus pallidè cinerea: loris et fasciâ latâ anteculari cinereis nec nigris distinguenda. Long. tot. 5·5 poll., culm. 0·6, alæ 2·6, caudæ 1·9, tarsi 1·15.

♀ similis *B. crurali* ♀, fronte, facie laterali et superciliis olivaceo-brunneis, nec rufescentibus: caudâ olivaceo nec rufo lavatâ distinguenda. Long. tot. 5·4 poll., alæ 2·6.

Hab. Kuatun, N.W. Fohkien.

PROPARUS GUTTATICOLLIS, De La Touche, n. sp.

Similis *P. striaticolli*, Verr., sed loris albis, pileo nuchaque brunneis concoloribus, minimè nigro notatis, fasciâ fumosâ circumdatis. Long. tot. 4·6 poll., culm. 0·5, alæ 2·05, caudæ 2·1, tarsi 0·95.

Hab. Kuantun.

YUHINA PALLIDA, De La Touche, n. sp.

Y. similis *Y. nigrimento*, sed ubique pallidior: notæo cinerascens: subtus candida, vix fulvescente tincta.

Hab. Kuantun. (Cf. H. H. Slater, *Ibis*, 1897, p. 173.)

LEPOCESTES SINENSIS, Rickett, n. sp.

♂ [vix ad.]. Similis *L. pyrrhotidi*, Hodgs., sed pileo pallidè brunnescenti-fulvo, nec castaneo striolato: interscapulio nigro, fasciis angustis rufescenti-fulvis notato: remigibus et rectricibus pallidè castaneis, fasciis æquidistantibus nigris transversim notatis. Long. tot. 11·2 poll., culm. 1·7, alæ 5·7, caudæ 3·3, tarsi 1·1.

Hab. Kuantun.

Mr. SCLATER exhibited a set of fourteen photographs containing figures of the eggs and nests of the birds of North Queensland which had been transmitted to him by Mr. D. Le Souëf, of Melbourne, and called special attention to those representing *Podargus papuensis*, *Lalage leucomelæna*, and *Sterna anæsthetæ*, the last being placed under a *Pandanus* palm. These photographs had been sent by Mr. Le Souëf to illustrate his papers on new or rare Australian birds' eggs to be published in 'The Ibis.'

Mr. N. F. TICEHURST exhibited a specimen of the Icterine Warbler (*Hypolais icterina*) shot on the 1st of May, 1897, at Burwash, in Sussex.

Dr. F. PENROSE exhibited a beautiful example of an albino Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*) obtained on Salisbury Plain during the past winter.

Mr. H. E. S. UPCHER exhibited some eggs of the South-African Goshawk (*Astur tachiro*) taken in the Drakensberg Mountains in Natal.